

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - NIXON'S TRIP

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM JUNE 11 SOUTH CHINA MORNING
POST EDITORIAL TITLED "A REFRESHING CHANGE FOR MR. NIXON":
QUOTE

2. "IF-IT'S-TUESDAY-IT-MUST-BE-JORDAN" TYPE TOURS, SUCH
AS THE ONE NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY PRESIDENT NIXON, ARE
IMPORTANT MORE AS AN AFFIRMATION THAN THE MEANS OF A
DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH.

3. THEY ARE THE COSMETIC FINALE TO PREPARATORY WORK
ALREADY DONE, AND WHILE THE TRIPPERS GET THE BIG HEADLINES,
THE KUDOS FOR THE REALLY SUBSTANTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS BELONG
ELSEWHERE.

4. MR. NIXON'S TIGHT SCHEDULE WILL HARDLY PERMIT INDEPTH
EXCHANGES ABOUT ANY OF THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS THAT BEDEVIL
THE COUNTRIES HE WILL VISIT, FOR APART FROM OFFICIAL TALKS
THERE WILL BE MANY SUCH DIVERSIONS AS BANQUETS AND SIGHT-
SEEING...

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5. IN MR. NIXON'S CASE, THERE IS AN ADDED COMPLICATION IN

THAT THE TOUR WILL BE USED FOR SELF-SERVING PURPOSES.
POPULARITY ABROAD WILL BE CONTRASTED WITH HIS SITUATION
AT HOME, WHERE THE NIXON PRESENCE IS INCREASINGLY A POLITICAL
LIABILITY.

6. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE MAN AND THE OFFICIAL; IT MIGHT
BE LARGELY IRRELEVANT FOR MR. NIXON TO TAKE A NINE-DAY SWING
THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE
THAT THIS JOURNEY SHOULD BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES.

7. THIS JET-BORNE CARAVAN MARKS AN ENTIRELY NEW RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE FOREMOST WESTERN POWER AND THE POWDER-KEG NATIONS
OF THE ARAB WORLD, AND SETS A SEAL OF APPROVAL ON THE PAINS-
TAKING WORK ALREADY DONE BY DR. KISSINGER AND A HOST OF LESSER
DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS.

8. FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR MONTHS, THERE IS SILENCE ALONG
ISRAEL'S BORDERS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA. FOR THE FIRST TIME
FOR YEARS, THERE IS THE SCENT OF PEACE IN THE AIR. FOR THE
FIRST TIME FOR DECADES, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A LONG-
LASTING ACCORD...

9. IN A VOLATILE SITUATION, ANY OVERT BID TO ESTABLISH THE
U.S. AS SUZERAIN OF THE ARABS, ESPECIALLY AT THE EXPENSE OF
THE RUSSIANS, WOULD PROVOKE AN ANGRY BACKLASH THAT MIGHT TAKE
YEARS TO OVERCOME.

10. HOWEVER, IF EXPECTATIONS ARE KEPT TO REASONABLE LIMITS,
THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY
THAT WILL LONG OUT-LIVE THE MERE PERSONALITIES INVOLVED.
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